Forward Trading in Agricultural Products

†2678. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agriculture experts have demanded for starting forward trading in agricultural products in a recently held meeting with the Finance Minister so that seven rjer cent growth rate in agriculture sector can be achieved;

(b) if so, the names of the agricultural products for which forward trading is allowed at present and the items for which agriculture experts have put demand for inclusion thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) As part of the pre-Budget meetings taken by the Finance Minister with agriculture experts, among their various suggestions relating to agricultural economy, the experts suggested futures trading to be strengthened and expanded. However, no specific items were named by the agriculture experts, in the/ above meetings demanding inclusion for forwWd trading. The list of commodities currently permitted for futures/forward trading is given in Statement *(See* below). The Government's approach on the issue is positive, and as stated in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister 2002-2003, the strategy includes, expansion of futures and forward trading to cover all agricultural commodities has been announced as one of the aspects of agriculture and rural development.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

List of Commodities Currently Permitted for Future Trading Pepper
(Domestic and international) Turmeric Castorseed
Castor Oil (International) Gur
Potato Hession Sacking Cotton
Coffee Kapas
Soyabean, its oil & oil cake Rapeseed/Mustardseed, its oil & oil cake Groundnut, its oil & oil cake Sunflower, its oil & oil cake Cottonseed, its oil & oil cake Copra /Coconut, its oil & oil cake Rice bran, its oil & oil cake Sesamum, its oil & oil cake Safflowerseed, its oil & oil cake RBD Palmolein
Sugar and Tea.

Free Distribution of Foodgrains to BPL Families

†2679. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains produced in the country during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the up date position of foodgrains stock with Food Corporation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.